

3 June 1982

[redacted] Brunei

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1. BACKGROUND: Brunei is scheduled to gain independence in 1983, ending its current status as a British protectorate. As independence day approaches, several matters concerning Brunei's future role in Southeast Asia and potential as an independent state will take on increasing importance. Most of these matters are of political and/or economic nature and some of them are tied to events that occurred more than a century ago. The potential for problems at the time of and immediately following independence is considerable given the location of the country, its wealth based on oil production, and cultural makeup. Territorial and border disputes with the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah are possible.

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